

Partly cloudy tonight.  
Tomorrow partly cloudy  
and warmer.

# The Washington Times

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the right price. \* \* \*

NUMBER 3937.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 22, 1905.

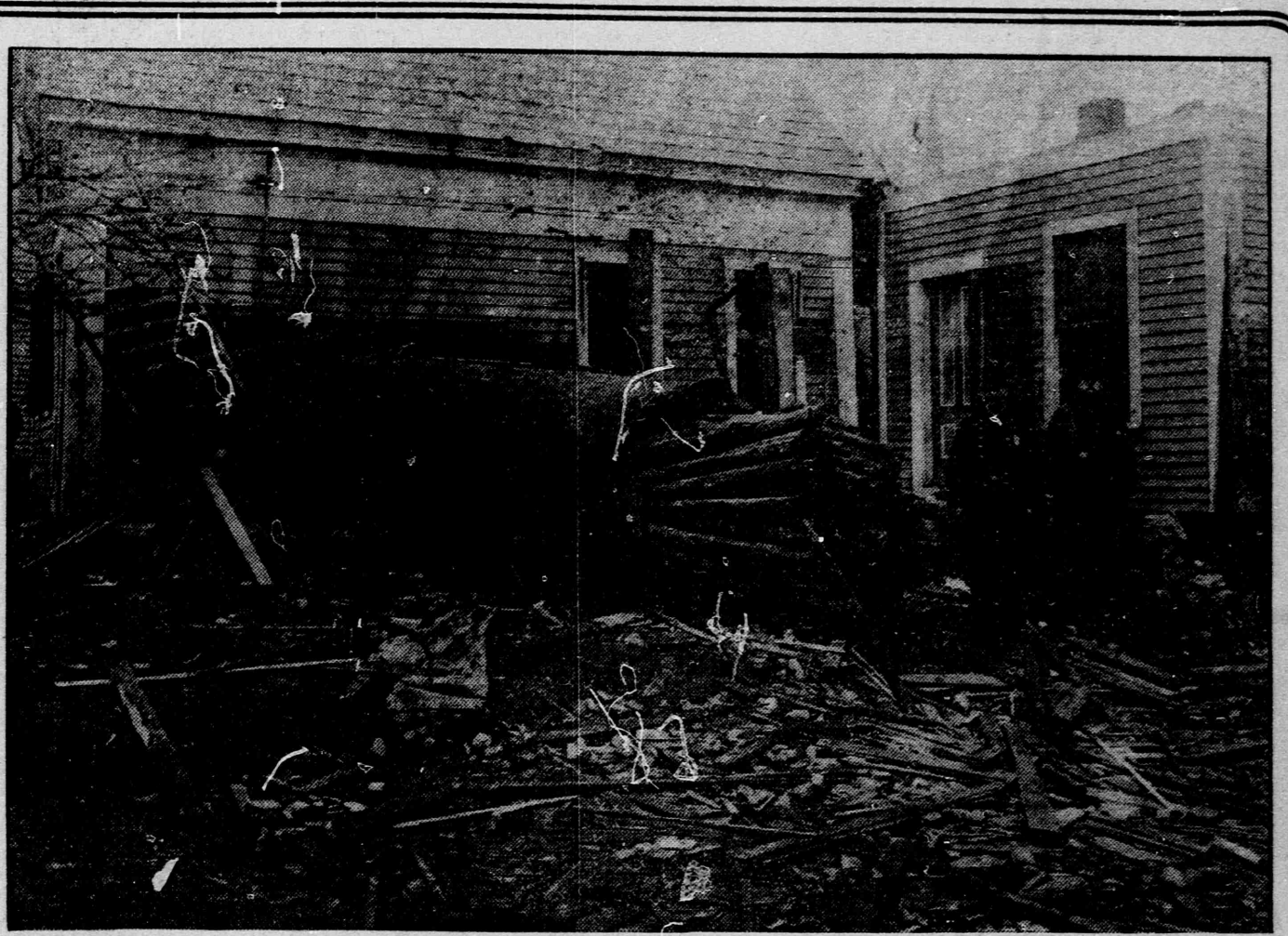
PRICE ONE CENT.

## SCENES OF BROCKTON TRAGEDY WHICH CLAIMED MANY LIVES



ENGINEER ROCKWELL'S HOUSE UNROOFED.

It was by a strange freak of fate the boiler that scattered death to scores hurtled across the street, carrying off the roof of the engineer's home. It smashed through the building as though it were an egg, and came within a few feet of killing the dead engineer's wife and children.



WRECKED BOILER HURLED 100 YARDS FROM PLACE OF EXPLOSION.

It was located in a small house in an angle of the L-shaped factory. Nothing concerning the cause of the explosion is known. It sent the giant mass of iron through an upper room, diagonally through the north end of building and high in the air yards away.

### PRESIDENT CASTRO EVADES ULTIMATUM

Leaves Caracas Without  
Answering Bowen.

#### RELATIONS MAY BE SEVERED

Naval Demonstration and Seizure of  
Customs Houses Would Follow.  
Danger for Venezuela.

No reply has been received from President Castro in answer to Minister Bowen's note, in which the United States Government insists that the questions at issue between the two countries be submitted to arbitration.

It is stated that Castro has again left Caracas. In this manner he will again block any effort to bring the negotiations to a definite point.

Several months ago when the issues between the United States and Venezuela first came to an acute phase Castro adopted the policy of leaving Caracas for the mountains. It is thought that he is now trying to postpone matters by adopting the same plan.

**May Sever Relations.**  
The next step in the Venezuelan affair, should President Castro refuse to submit pending questions between his government and the United States to arbitration, will probably be the severance of diplomatic relations.

The Administration hopes that Castro will not force the United States to take such action with its possible consequences of a naval demonstration and the seizure of one or more Venezuelan custom houses.

It is difficult to see how a naval demonstration or the seizure of custom houses would be of much avail. Castro would, in that event, probably issue a decree abolishing customs duties at such ports.

It is held, however, that Castro can ill afford at this time, to break with the United States, when France, Italy and the Netherlands stand ready to pounce upon the country to any extent permitted by the Monroe Doctrine.

The demands of the United States cannot be considered otherwise than real.

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### THE WEATHER REPORT.

The weather will continue partly cloudy tonight and Thursday in the East and South, with higher temperatures Thursday. There will be showers tonight in the southern portion of the South Atlantic States, and local rains tonight and Thursday in the lower lake region.

**TEMPERATURE.**  
9 a. m. .... 40  
12 Noon ..... 43  
1 p. m. .... 44

**DOWNTOWN TEMPERATURE.**  
(Registered Affleck's Standard Thermometer.)  
8 a. m. .... 45  
12 Noon ..... 52  
1 p. m. .... 53

**THE SUN.**  
Sun sets today ..... 6:13  
Sun rises tomorrow ..... 6:09

**WIND TABLE.**  
Low tide ..... 3:31 p. m.  
High tide ..... 9:24 p. m.  
Low tide ..... 4:24 a. m.  
High tide ..... 10:14 a. m.

### WHOLESALE FRAUD ATTENDS SEIZING OF PUBLIC LANDS

Alleged Irregularities Reported Involving  
Prominent Men in Eight States and One  
Territory of the Far West.

Land frauds, which throw into the shade all the widely heralded investigations in Oregon, where numerous indictments have been returned, are now reported from the same section of the country, but covering ten times the area heretofore under suspicion of gross irregularities. In fact the latest allegations cover the entire Pacific coast and all the great Northwest west of Colorado and Montana.

Eight States and a Territory are named in the allegations put in circulation in the West. These are Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, and the Territory of New Mexico. Members of Congress are accused of being mixed up in the disposition of millions of acres of Government land and the Rockefeller and Gould interests are charged with having held up intended investigations which would have uncovered, it is asserted, their participation in questionable deals.

**Government Lost Millions.**  
Machinations of plotters have caused the loss of millions of dollars to the National Government, if the charges now made are true. The charges relate to two classes of mineral land—the coal lands in the States named, control of which is sought by the Rockefeller-Gould interests, and the gilsonite lands in Utah. The latter is a substance found only in that State and is used in the manufacture of varnish, insulating material and such things. An attempt is being made to control the supply and fix trust prices on the commodity and in this connection is mentioned the name of Adolphus Busch, the St. Louis brewer and politician, as chief promoter.

It is plainly declared that the methods by which immense tracts of land have been so obtained by promoters will not bear investigation, and that knowing this the trust interests concerned have exerted themselves to prevent any investigation by the Interior Department. Further it is declared, that prospective witnesses have been started off on extended vacations as a part of a general plan to cover up evidence and prevent the facts from becoming known.

**Prominent Men Named.**  
Among the prominent men whose names have been connected with some phase or other of the case are Senator Reed Smoot of Utah, who is a partner in the ownership of gilsonite land, the title of which was in controversy before the General Land Office, after which it was sold to the corporation backed by Busch.

Senator George Sutherland of Utah, political servitor of Smoot, whose law firm has for some time been attorneys for the Rockefeller-Gould corporation in Utah; the Rio Grande Western Railroad Company, which, through a subsidiary corporation, the Utah Fuel Company, has been working to secure a monopoly of coal deposits in the West; Representative Binger Hermann of Oregon, now under indictment in connection with land frauds in that State, to whom

frauds were reported while he was Commissioner of the General Land Office, but who failed to take any action, thus affording unusual facilities to the Rockefeller-Gould agents to secure patents on the coal lands desired; B. B. Odell, former governor of New York, one of the organizers of the Florence Mining Company, which has obtained special privileges for the securing of valuable mineral lands in Vintail Indian reservation, also in Utah; and Representative James S. Sherman of Utah, chairman of the House Indian Committee, interested with Odell, Joseph L. Leiter, of Chicago, backer of the Haven Mining Company, and also possessed of valuable mineral rights on the reservation.

**Cannot Tell Extent.**  
This, it is said, is only a partial list. The ramifications reach other men high in public life. Nobody at present knows how many may be involved, if a thorough investigation is made. Government officials in Utah are being passed as to whether Smoot secured his gilsonite rights after his election as Senator. Lippman suddenly became quiescent and the inference drawn in Utah was that he was given sudden light from Washington and told to "mind his own business," which is a good Mormon proverb.

When asked whether he intended to take any action in the coal land frauds, he replied cautiously: "This is a matter in which I must be guided wholly by instructions from Washington."

**Gross Frauds Alleged.**  
Investigation made by persons not connected with the Government service has shown that not less than 320,000 acres of coal lands are involved. If the Government had received pay for this at the legal price of \$20 an acre it would have been the richer by \$6,400,000. The property is worth many times that amount. But only a part of this was taken as coal land. Various kinds of advantages of the law have been taken by agents of Rockefeller and Gould's Utah Fuel Company.

The enabling act, making Utah a State, provided that a certain amount of Government land within the confines of the State should be set apart for the State educational institutions and similar purposes. By the workings of this law the State land board has the right to select such lands as it desires, always providing that the lands contain no mineral. The land board makes these selections at the request of prospective purchasers, secures title from the Government and sells at an advance of \$1.50 an acre.

**How Game Was Worked.**  
The favorite practice has been to take up coal land as agricultural land and buy it through the State land board at \$1.50 an acre, whereas the Government price is \$20 an acre. Instances are on record where land has been returned by

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### FUNERAL GLOOM VEILS BROCKTON

Councils Name Committee  
to Act With Citizens.

#### CHURCH SERVICES THURSDAY

Grand Cortege Contemplated to March  
to Cemeteries—All Business  
Will Be Suspended.

BROCKTON, Mass., March 22.—At a special joint meeting of the city government last night, called by Mayor Keith, who presided, the following joint resolution was passed:

"Whereas a great calamity has fallen upon our people and the people of our sister towns in the sudden destruction of the R. B. Grover & Co. factory, with scores of human lives lost under conditions the most heartrending and terrible, crushed out by falling of the floors and walls or swallowed by pitiless and relentless flames;

"Resolved, That in the shadow of this great catastrophe which falls athwart every heart and darkens so many mourning homes, we tender the bereaved our deepest sympathy in this hour of affliction, sharing as we may their sorrow and bowed with them in one common grief; and it is

**Councils Name Committee.**

"Ordered, That a committee consisting of his honor, the mayor, three members of the board of aldermen, with such as the common council may join, be appointed to take such action in this sad exigency as they shall deem proper and to act in conjunction with any committee or committees which may be appointed for such purpose on the part of our citizens or of any organization."

The meeting voted to close the city departments, city hall, and the schools Thursday, and to require all places of business to be closed at least during the hours of the funeral services.

The special committee held a meeting at the close of the joint services and formulated a plan for the formation of the funeral cortege, which promises, because of the large number of organizations desiring to join it, to be a tremendous affair.

The committee will take up later the city's share in forming the relief fund.

#### Funeral Services Tomorrow

Public funeral services for the victims will be held tomorrow afternoon, and Mayor Keith has suggested that the unidentified bodies be buried in the city cemetery at Malrose.

Altogether fifty-five bodies have been recovered, and the police report that there are still thirty-five employees missing.

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### REORGANIZATION OF W., A. & MT. V. R. R.

New Officers Elected and  
Experts Acquired.

#### PLAN MANY BETTERMENTS

\$1,500,000 Voted for Immediate Use.  
Road to Be Double Tracked From  
Washington to Alexandria.

All the facts relating to the reorganization of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company were made public today by the officers.

There has been in reality what might be called a double reorganization. A president and secretary-treasurer have been elected for the simple purpose of signing the new issue of bonds, which the company put out to make a number of large improvements.

These latter officers have been required, and some of the best known and practical electric railroad men in the United States have been chosen to fill their places.

**New Officers Chosen.**

The new officers, as announced today, are: Clarence P. King, president; Henry H. Pearson, Jr., vice president; Frank K. Hipple, secretary; John W. Pitto, treasurer, and Horace A. Swartz, assistant treasurer.

President King is a well-known officer of the Pennsylvania railroad system, and was at the head of the Washington, Alexandria and Mt. Vernon railway some time. Vice President Pearson has been identified with some of the largest trolley systems in the country for a number of years.

The officers who were elected for the purpose of signing the bonds and the papers recently filed with the clerks of the courts of Alexandria and Fairfax counties are: J. Wynne Foulkes, who is connected with a Philadelphia trust company, and H. S. Vaux, a clerk in the same company. They were, of course, retired when the bonds had been signed.

**Board of Directors.**

The new board of directors consists of John Cassels, Washington, D. C.; S. Wynne Foulkes, Philadelphia, Pa.; Howard S. Graham, Philadelphia, Pa.; Frank K. Hipple, Philadelphia, Pa.; Clarence P. King, Philadelphia, Pa.; Frederick Mertens, Washington, D. C.; and Henry H. Pearson, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Washington directors are both prominent men. Mr. Cassels is a director in the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Mr. Mertens is at the head of the Marshall Hall Steamboat Company. Under the plan of reorganization the railroad company has retired all its former bonded debt and has executed a mortgage for \$2,500,000, of which the directors have voted \$1,500,000 for immediate use in making improvements.

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### RUSSIAN ARMY SAFE IN HAVEN

Retreat Continues Northward, While Headquarters Camp Is Pitched at Guntzuling, 106 Miles Above Tie Pass.

### KUROPATKIN REJOINS TROOPS; EXPRESSES HOPE FOR VICTORY

Japanese Pursuit Slow---Firing Heard on Right Flank---Fresh Soldiers Relieve Rear Guard at Sipingha.

WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMY AT GUNTZULING, March 21.—General Kuropatkin arrived here today from Harbin, where he went on Sunday. He was received with a great ovation and made a speech expressing the hope that the army would soon be able to retrieve its reverses.

**CONFIDENCE IN LINEVITCH.**

It is too early yet to determine what effect the change in the supreme command of the army will have. The soldiers have a great deal of confidence in the venerable General Linevitch, whose task is a monumental one.

Headquarters will be maintained here for the present. The reorganization of the forces effected at Tieling after the retreat from Mukden undoubtedly marks the second stage of the war.

**FACILITIES AT GUNTZULING.**

Guntzuling, 106 miles north of Tieling, has a large railway station, and is an important Red Cross center and is supplied with military facilities of every sort. It has now become a great camp, overflowing in all directions.

Troops are arriving daily. The Russian advance divisions are continuing the march to the northward, while fresh troops from European Russia are going south to relieve the worn-out rear guard.

**GUN FIRE ON RIGHT FLANK.**

The booming of big guns on the right flank has been audible throughout today, indicating fighting in that direction.

Persistent reports have circulated that a massacre of the wounded and of the Red Cross staff occurred at Mukden after the Russians had evacuated the place and before the Japanese occupied it, although a Tartar general undertook to protect non-combatants during that period.

**Rear Guard at Sipingha.**

The Russian rear guard yesterday occupied Sipingha, seventy miles north of Tieling. The enemy continues to follow us, but the pursuit is slow. The main Japanese army apparently is remaining at Tieling.

The four days' rest at Tieling gave the army a chance to re-form and to recover from the recent hardships. Since that time the march has been conducted in a orderly fashion, but so rapidly that many horses and cattle have died of exhaustion.

The columns of the Russian army

### Linevitch's Army In Grave Danger

LONDON, March 22.—There is considerable diversity in the reports received here regarding the situation in Manchuria.

The Tokyo correspondent of the Standard believes that the Japanese occur

Perhaps It's Your Turn at the Maltese Cross Money Next Sunday